

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

And while we are planning some happy times for the fortunate little people who have homes of their own, and loving parents to provide not only comforts, but luxuries and Christmas gifts, let us not forget those others who have neither home nor parents, but are entirely dependent on strangers for the roof that shelters them, for the food that keeps them alive, for the clothes that keep them warm.

The Children's Home Society is doing all in its power for the succor of these helpless ones. But it needs assistance, and needs it very much. A plea has already gone forth that Our Home Circle brothers and sisters should inaugurate its new birth by contributing a Christmas gift to aid this noble society in its work of rescuing of souls. For it means nothing less than that, this saving of little children and placing them in Christian homes.

In the old days Our Home Circle did much charitable work. From time to time it raised money for St. Luke's Hospital, for the Daniel Memorial Orphanage, and for individual charities. Let us not fall behind our old record. Let us not weary of well-doing. Doubtless there are many who know little or nothing of this Home Society, or of the good work it is quietly doing in our midst. Its beneficent deeds are limited only by its lack of means. Its coming to this State is a comparatively new thing, and that is why it is not more widely known and assisted.

During the past ten months it has found good homes for thirty homeless little ones, and many of these have been, or will be, legally adopted. The State superintendent, Mrs. Seaton, has done the work almost single-handed, herself traveling over the State, seeking and rescuing the helpless little ones—some of them babies in arms—and bringing them safely to the shelter awaiting them in Jacksonville, and later takes them to the homes offered. Besides this, she has done all the office work and has raised most of the funds expended. All this because every dollar, and more, much more, is needed for her little charges. There are none to spare even

for needed assistance for the over-worked superintendent.

Don't you think we all ought to do all we can to help this noble worker, as well as the waifs she saves? She has the support of an enthusiastic and capable board of directors, but something more is needed. The work is too great and pressing for a few, however willing, to support it financially. The Children's Home Society is not a local or private society. It is authorized by law to rescue children from debasing surroundings, and how many of these there are waiting to be saved we all know. The society reaches out all over the State and gathers in all it can grasp.

And there are homes, good, kindly homes, and loving hearts anxious to welcome the waifs; empty homes and hungry hearts waiting to be filled. But the children to fit into these empty niches, where are they to-day? Still in the slums, still adrift, homeless, parentless, or worse, because the money that is needed to snatch them out of their Slough of Despond is missing from their rescuer's treasury. Only a few weeks ago the Children's Home Society had sixty-five applications on file, sixty-five good homes offered for children, and—just think of it—only six of them could be filled. Why? Not because there were not plenty of suffering waifs to fill them all, aye, and ten times as many, but because there was not money enough to send out the laborers to gather up the harvest.

And this is why I would like to see Our Home Circle "do itself proud" by making its first Christmas gift for a beautiful cause that means the saving of human souls.

There is another way, too, in which every one of our Circle can help the Home Society. This is by reporting cases of homeless, or worse than homeless, little ones that come to their knowledge. Write to your editor all about them, and then the rescuers will soon know all about them too. One word in closing, the Children's Home Society has not requested this appeal, nor has it any knowledge of it, save from these columns.

## Mons. Beaucaire

[Continued from Twelfth Page]

swinging manfully at it, and the windows were bright with the light of many candles. When the door was flung open to call the chair of Lady Mary Carlisle, there was an eager pressure of the throng to see.

A small, fair gentleman in white satin came out upon the steps, turned and bowed before a lady who appeared in the doorway, a lady whose royal loveliness was given to view for a moment in that glowing frame. The crowd sent up a hearty English cheer for the Beauty of Bath.

The gentleman smiled upon them delightedly. "What enchanting people!" he cried. "Why did I not know, so I might have shout' with them?" The lady noticed the people not at all; whereat, being pleased, the people cheered again. The gentleman offered her his hand; she made a slow courtesy; placed the tips of her fingers upon his own. "I am honored, M. de Chateaurien," she said.

"No, no!" he cried earnestly. "Behold a poor Frenchman whom emperors should envy." Then reverently and with the pride of his gallant office vibrant in every line of his light figure, invested in white satin and very grand, as he had prophesied, M. le Duc de Chateaurien headed Lady Mary Carlisle down the steps, an achievement which had figured in the ambitions of seven other gentlemen during the evening.

"Am I to be left in such unhappiness?" he said in a low voice. "That rose I have beg' for so long—"

"Never!" said Lady Mary.

"Ah, I do not deserve it, I know so well! But—"

"Never!"

"It is the greatness of my unworthiness that alone can claim your charity;

let your kin' heart give this little red rose, this great alms, to the poor beggar."

"Never!"

She was seated in the chair. "Ah, give the rose," he whispered. Her beauty shone dazzling on him out of the dimness.

"Never!" she flashed defiantly as she was closed in. "Never!"

"Ah!"

"Never!"

The rose fell at his feet.

"A rose lasts till morning," said a voice behind him.

Turning, M. de Chateaurien looked beamingly upon the face of the Duke of Winterset.

"Tis already the daylight," he replied, pointing to the east. "Monsieur, was it not enough honor for you to have out madame, the aunt of Lady Mary? Lady Rellerton retain' much trace of beauty. 'Tis strange you did not appear more happy."

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

## Letter to the Editor

Editor Sun:

Sir: By the newspapers I observe that the President and Postmaster General have determined to bring postmasters of offices of the first class under the merit system, thus placing them beyond the power of removal for political purposes.

As an old employee of the postal service I desire to express the belief that no one act can do more than this to improve the service.

There has been no stability in the management of postoffices, as, in the past, postmasters have been well educated in their duties just in time for removal.

It has been truly said that "an excellent" or "good" postmaster should be retained so long as he can maintain such

a rating; a 'fair' or 'bad' one should quickly be exchanged for a 'good' or 'excellent' one." Therefore, with the present system of removal for political purposes only, there is not much encouragement for a postmaster to devote his best talents and energies to his office.

FORMER EMPLOYEE.

Mandarin, Fla., Nov. 27.

## The Equitable Life Assurance Society Reorganized, Cleansed and Purified.

Its assets have been counted repeatedly, and found all right. Its expenses and salaries reduced. Its secrets made public. Its new management has pledged to the public an annual examination by independent chartered accountants. After all the attacks it stands to-day the strongest life assurance company in the world. There is no reason why the most timid and careful should delay further taking insurance in the Equitable.

## FULLER'S EARTH.

Florida and Arkansas are the States leading in the production of this material, of which some forty million tons are used in various useful ways, other than in candy adulteration, every year. Of this amount Florida furnished 29,480 tons of this rare and valuable earth, since it is now being extensively used in place of boneblack for refining purposes. Recently an important report has been issued by the geological survey of the Government, which says it is interesting to note that Florida—a State which is not ordinarily connected with mining in any form—comes first in the production of fuller's earth. This position has been assumed by Florida within the past few years, and the entrance of the State in the industry immediately brought it forward as one of the leading factors in the world.

## COTTON ENEMIES IN TEXAS.

It would seem, from a recent bulletin on Miscellaneous Cotton Insects in Texas, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, as if the Lone Star State has more than the usual insects to fight than any of the States raising cotton. The list given comprises six which affect the young plants, seven which injure the leaves, three the stalk, and nine injurious to the squares and bolls—twenty-five in all. The differential locust is said to be by far the most injurious of them all. As the bulletin is fully illustrated, gives history and remedies for prevention, as well as extermination, it should be in the hands of every cotton grower, not alone in Texas, but in all the Gulf States.

The Fruitman's Guide of New York City says the orange crop of Lee and DeSoto Counties has been pretty well shipped. Not more than one-fifth has gone out of the Zolfo district and, if this is a criterion for the rest of the county—as we believe it is—we doubt if 25 per cent has yet been stripped from the trees.

Mrs. N. C. Martin of Laurel Hill has raised cane to some profit this season. From 500 joints planted last spring she has banked 4,000 seed and also made a lot of syrup. A woman thus able to raise cane deserves a laurel wreath.

Zolfo is not a very big town down in DeSoto County, but it has been figured out that at least 100,000 boxes of oranges will be shipped from its railway station this season.

## THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

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J. H. Livingston, says the Arcadia News, has a half-acre of sugar cane whose stalks stand eleven feet high.